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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Mercy M. Davidson  
Serial No. : 09/604,876 Examiner: R. Schnizer  
Filed : June 28, 2000 Group Art Unit: 1635  
For : IMMORTALIZATION OF HUMAN POST-MITOTIC CELLS

1185 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036  
February 20, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington D.C., 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NOVEMBER 20, 2002 OFFICE ACTION

This Amendment is submitted in response to a November 20, 2002 Office Action issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the November 20, 2002 Office Action is due February 20, 2003. Accordingly, this Amendment is being timely filed.

Please amend the subject application as follows:

In the Specification

Please delete page 16, line 33 to page 17, line 13, and insert the following replacement paragraph:

--Since the primary cultures stopped dividing, an indirect method was used to transfer the SV-40 gene in order to immortalize the cardiomyocytes. Used was a fibroblast cell line (DWFb1) transfected with a plasmid pNRS1, an SV-40 based mammalian vector,

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